

FINAL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Richmond Heritage Commission
Held on September 25, 2014

The Richmond Heritage Commission met at 420 Winchester Rd, Richmond, NH on September 25, 2014 at 3 PM. Bob Weekes, Carol Jameson, Susan Marsden, and Sandy Laughner were present, constituting a quorum. Susie Roney was also present. Carol Jameson acted as Secretary.

Bob Weekes reported back on his meeting with JB Mack of Southwest Regional Planning. He presented the same powerpoint presentation he had presented to Sandra Gillis. Bob noted that he presented the powerpoint as his presentation, not a product of the RHC. Carol noted that she had known of and approved Bob making his presentations to Sandra and JB. The meeting discussed the coordination of efforts with the various groups working in town on similar fronts---for example, the Richmond Community Development Assoc. , working primarily on thoughtful development of the center of town; and the new Richmond Parks and Recreation Commission. It was the consensus of the group that , at this time, informal communication and coordination is sufficient to work together effectively.

Bob then discussed his research on the pump that Lynn Adams had found and given to the commission at its last meeting. The pump is one of several that were in town in earlier years, Bob showed old photographs from the Town Archives that showed another pump, same model from same manufacturer (FE Meyers and Bros) located at the Four Corners/Town Common area in the early 1900's. Local residents say that the town pump at what was then the Town Common (on the Brewer property today) was connected to a well there that is now covered by a slab that has lettering on it, "RICHMOND NH 2000". Donna Brewer told Bob that she remembers a time when her property drew water from the town well at the Town Common. When that well became contaminated by road salt, they used the town well in front of Town Hall for their water.---the well at Town Hall being the same well that supplied water to the Abbott memorial trough.

The commission discussed the possible location and landscaping around the trough. Carol read an email from Hank summarizing his thoughts on location and presentation of the trough. All were in agreement that the trough should stay in the same general area as it is now, but must be relocated to be safe from passing traffic going up the south town hall driveway (that driveway is a 'recent' additional access drive to town hall, the original driveway was the present other access entry off of rte 32 to the north). Because of the difficulty in maintaining a fresh and safe water supply in the trough, it was determined to keep the trough dry, likely as a planter, as other towns have done. Liability issues were likely the reason the Selectmen had closed the well and trough in the first place, as some residents had stated was their memory.

The group then went to the site of the trough to see possible sites. It was the consensus of the group that a site to the right of the well would be likely a good spot, and to place the trough on a base so that the inscription shows. It must be sited away from the road to avoid damage from plowing and salting along route 32. Hugh VanBrocklin stopped and discussed his memories of the well and pump at this site and at the Town Common. This pump had been green. He also noted that the last one room schoolhouse in Richmond had closed in 1963—he had been a student there at the time.

Sandy and Bob will weedwack the bank where the trough will be located to show the land contour better. Susie volunteered to come up with possible terrace plans for the location of the trough.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Jameson